

## **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-20 have been canceled. New claims 21-35 remain in the application.

Claim 21 is directed to a portable sign assembly including, *inter alia*, an adjustable band adapted to fit different diameter traffic channelizer drums, a sign support attached to an outer surface of the band, and a panel assembly attached to the sign support. The sign support has a substantially planar front face to which the panel assembly is attached and a radiused inner face substantially corresponding to the radius of curvature of a drum to which the sign assembly is adapted to be attached. The Examiner acknowledges that Dinan et al do not specifically teach the inner face of the sign support having a radius of curvature corresponding to a drum, but contends it would have been obvious to provide such curvature for the sign support of Dinan et al so as to provide a more secure connection between the post or drum and the sign support as shown by Summey. However, Summey shows a plurality of vertically spaced ribs 16 having an arcuate shape back edge 16a that conforms to the outer circumferential shape of a pole, not a radiused inner face substantially corresponding to the radius of curvature of a drum to which the sign assembly is adapted to be attached as recited in claim 21. Accordingly, claim 21 is submitted as clearly allowable.

Claims 22-27 depend from claim 21 and are submitted as allowable for at least the same reasons. Moreover, claims 22 and 23 further patentably distinguish over the cited references by reciting that the sign support has curved ends that extend beyond opposite ends of the planar front face, with fasteners extending through the curved ends and through the band for attaching the sign support to the band. Also claim 23

recites that additional fasteners extend through the panel assembly and planar front face of the sign support for attaching the sign assembly to the sign support.

Claims 25 and 26 further patentably distinguish over the cited references by reciting that the band has opposite ends connectable together by a locking mechanism that comprises a strap attached to one of the band ends and a buckle attached to the other band end for receiving the strap. In Dinan et al there is no such strap attached to one of the band ends that is received in a buckle attached to the other band end as claimed.

Claim 28 is directed to a directional traffic barricade including a traffic channelizer drum and a portable sign assembly removably attachable to the drum, the sign assembly including, *inter alia*, a band adapted to fit different diameter drums, a sign support attached to the band having a radiused inner face substantially corresponding to the radius of curvature of the drum, a substantially planar front face to which the panel assembly is attached, and curved ends that extend beyond opposite ends of the planar front face, with fasteners extending therethrough and through the band for attaching the sign support to the band, substantially as set forth in claims 21 and 22, and is submitted as allowable for substantially the same reasons.

Claims 29 and 34 are directed to a portable sign assembly/directional traffic barricade including such portable sign assembly removably attachable to a traffic channelizer drum, the portable sign assembly including, *inter alia*, a band adapted to fit different diameter traffic channelizer drums, a sign support attached to the band, and a panel assembly attached to the sign support. The panel assembly comprises a drop

panel attached to the sign support having a vertical height greater than the vertical height of the sign support, with fasteners extending through one sign panel and the drop panel and the sign support for attaching the one sign panel and the drop panel to the sign support, and additional fasteners extending through another sign panel and the drop panel in vertically spaced relation from the one sign panel for attaching the other sign panel to the drop panel. The Examiner acknowledges that Dinan et al does not teach a drop panel for mounting several signs, but contends this is well known in the art as shown by Krug. Admittedly Krug teaches a sign support 12 having several signs attached thereto. However, Krug does not teach the signs as being mounted vertically, much less wherein fasteners extend through one of the sign panels and the drop panel and the sign support for attaching the one sign panel and the drop panel to the sign support, and additional fasteners extend through another sign panel and the drop panel in vertically spaced relation from the one sign panel for attaching the other sign panel to the drop panel as claimed. Accordingly, claims 29 and 34 are submitted as clearly allowable.

Claims 30-33 depend from claim 29 and claim 35 depends from claim 34 and are submitted as allowable for at least the same reasons. Moreover, claims 30 and 35 further recite that the one sign panel extends above a top of both the sign support and the drop panel in a manner clearly nowhere disclosed or suggested in Krug or any of the other cited references. Accordingly, claims 30 and 35 are further submitted as allowable in their own right.

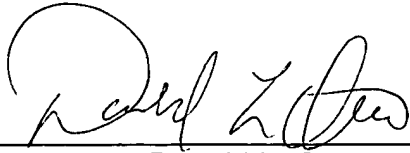
Claims 32 and 33 further patentably distinguish over the cited references by reciting that the sign support has a substantially planar front face to which the one sign panel and the drop panel are attached. Also claim 33 further patentably distinguishes over the cited references by reciting that the sign support has a radiused inner face substantially corresponding to the radius of curvature of a drum to which the sign assembly is adapted to be attached.

Where, as here, the differences in the claimed structure give advantageous results not disclosed or suggested in the cited references, more than a matter of design is involved. Accordingly, this application is now believed to be in condition for final allowance of all of the pending claims 21-35, and early action to that end is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner disagree with applicants' attorney in any respect, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicants' attorney in an effort to resolve such differences.

In the event that an extension of time is necessary, this should be considered a petition for such an extension. If required, fees are enclosed for the extension of time and/or for the presentation of new and/or amended claims. In the event any additional fees are due in connection with the filing of this amendment, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 18-0988 (Charge No. PSSIP0110US).

Respectfully submitted,

RENNER, OTTO, BOISSELLE & SKLAR, LLP

By 

Donald L. Otto  
Registration No. 22,125

1621 Euclid Avenue  
Nineteenth Floor  
Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2191  
Phone: 216-621-1113  
Fax: 216-621-6165

Z:\SEC177\PSS\IP110\REPLY TO OA OF 7-8-03.wpd